

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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Our Twentieth Century Offering

The Methodists are taking lead in great enterprises to celebrate the beginning of the twentieth century. The British Methodists are raising a fund of \$5,000,000, the Methodists of Canada \$1,000,000, and the American Methodists the enormous sum of \$20,000,000. These great funds are to be used to strengthen their distinctly denominational work, such as education, missions and publication. Surely such munificent gifts are a worthy offering with which to come before the Lord at the close of the nineteenth and at the opening of the twentieth century.

Cannot we, should not we, who are laying the foundation of a reformed faith and practice on primitive gospel lines also do something worth while to come before the Lord with in the beginning of the new century? What shall it be? May we make a suggestion? Does not the very foundation work of our church, that upon which under God our whole future rests, remain yet to be rendered strong and secure, beyond the possibility of failure, and out of reach of those vicissitudes which weaken and paralyze every good work?

Perhaps you say just at this point that we are going to ask for money. But ought our zeal and self-sacrifice to be less than the Methodists'? Should we be less progressive, less enterprising in proportion to our numerical strength? Shall that tree bring forth better fruit than ours, or bring forth more abundantly? Let us not argue this point, if once we know that it is the Lord's work, but let us celebrate the beginning of the twentieth century with an endowment for the college and the publishing house, that the one may cultivate that choice vineyard of the Lord, the minds and hearts of our rising youth, and that the other may greatly enlarge its most effective missionary field.

Who will second the motion? How much shall the fund be? Permit us to suggest an endowment for the college of \$50,000; for the Publishing House \$25,000, and for missions \$25,000, a grand total of \$100,000. Would not this be a worthy offering to bring before the Lord at the close of the most wonder-

ful century in the history of the word? Perhaps to many of our readers the attempt to raise \$100,000 for the several institutions of the Brethren church seems like a Utopian idea. But it is not. The endowment for the college has already been started; the plan suggested at our late conference met with unanimous favor and in a short time one-tenth of the \$50,000 was raised. The plan is very simple. Instead of paying \$100 into the hands of the trustees of the college, you pledge the interest on the \$100 at 6 per cent. or \$6.00 per year for ten years. In this way you handle your own money; you make your own investment instead of having some one else make the investment for you. With the principal you do what you please, but the interest you pay each year into the treasury of Ashland College for the advancement of its educational work. There may be some risk in giving \$50,000 into the hands of a few persons, but if each of 500 persons will pledge the interest of \$100, it will mean an endowment of \$50,000 at 6 per cent. interest, and each of the 500 persons will take care of his \$100. On the same plan the endowment for the Publishing House can be raised.

Think a moment as to what this will mean for the Brethren church. It will place the two greatest inter- and the most vital factors of the church on a permanent basis, and prepare the way for missionary enterprises that will at once make the whole world our field of activity. A new inspiration will take hold of our church life, dormant talent will be awakened and consecrated to the Master, laborers will be multiplied, the ministry of the church replenished with strong, efficient and consecrated servants, primitive Christianity receive a mighty impulse, and the gospel-alone-doctrine of the Brethren church make a tremendous step in the onward march of the kingdom of God. Shall we do it, brethren? We want to receive just one thousand postal cards from readers of the EVANGELIST giving us your opinion of the enterprise, and suggesting a plan for its successful accomplishment. We feel that each of you feel a great interest in the subject, and we want you to write just what you think, and within a week. May the Lord prosper the work, and turn the hearts of the people to the gospel of practical sacrifice for the strengthening and upbuilding of our Zion.